

and then escort those officials back in. Two of you will have to go over the to the Governor's office and escort him. Now Senator Lewis do you have an introduction back there?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes Mr. President I do. Seated over here underneath the balcony to my left is a group of people from the McCook Chamber of Commerce who act as greeters for the community and they will be your host at the social hour at 5:00 this evening over at the Radisson Cornhusker and I want to point out again that the wives are invited. We would certainly like to have all of you be there this evening and I would like to recognize this group at this time if you don't mind and have them stand please.

PRESIDENT: Very good, we are delighted to have you here to have you here today. Will the Legislature please recognize them. It is a long way in from McCook, Nebraska and we appreciate your interest in coming today in order to host the members of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. Alright the Legislature will please be at ease until the committee comes back.

SERGEANT at ARMS: Your committee now escorting his excellency the Governor of the State of Nebraska, the Neihardt family and the Neihardt official committee.

PRESIDENT: Have the committee come forward please. Please be seated. As the President of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature and a somewhat semi-unofficial master of ceremonies for this mornings deliberations, it is my pleasure at this time to present Dr. Otis E. Young, Pastor of First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pastor Young.

PASTOR YOUNG: Let us all bow together for the invocation. (prayer)

PRESIDENT: Thank you Dr. Young. Next on the program it is my distinct pleasure to officially welcome to the Legislative Chamber his excellency Honorable J. James Exon, Governor of the State of Nebraska.

GOVERNOR EXON: Thank you. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Thone, Governor Peterson, Members of the Neihardt family and the foundation, members of the Legislature and guests. I guess one of the most pleasant things that happened to me during my term as Governor was to come to know the man we have come here today to honor. John Neihardt after 50 years of faithful service to this state as Poet Laureate meant much more to me than just that. Many times I was privileged to honor him at many occasions that we had while he was here living among us. I read many of his works. I will be reading more of them from here on out. I think that John Neihardt is somewhat unique among us though because here was a tremendously talented man and certainly a tremendously dedicated man that did receive at least in part a tribute to his greatness and the mark that he has obviously left for good on the state of Nebraska while he was living. Of course that is somewhat unique in itself. But I guess despite his great works, and despite the fact that everyone loves John Neihardt, I think the thing that came through to me loud and clear always and I guess that what I best remember John Neihardt for was the fact that in this great man that dwells among us here in Nebraska there was one virtue that seemed to come through loud and clear whenever you were with him. That was despite his greatness, despite all of the honors that came his

4511